

Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield now provides pharmacy benefits when you receive flu and pneumococcal vaccines at the pharmacy.*

What You Need To Know About Getting a Flu Shot at a Pharmacy

Here is some information from Wellmark to help you understand how this works.

Q: Can I go to any pharmacy to get a flu shot?

A: No, not all pharmacies will provide this service. Only pharmacies that employ a pharmacist who is certified to administer or give vaccines can offer this service. Ask your pharmacist about availability. In addition, it is recommended that you use a network or contracting pharmacy for maximum benefits and for your claim to be electronically submitted. If you use a non-contracting pharmacy, you will have to pay for the entire cost of the vaccine, submit a paper claim, and wait for reimbursement.

Q: Why would I want to get my flu or pneumococcal vaccine from a pharmacy rather than my doctor?

A: The biggest reason is probably convenience. It simply may be easier for you to receive a flu shot at a pharmacy rather than at your doctor's office. Please note that your cost share may be different depending on where you receive the vaccine. If you receive it in your doctor's office, your health benefits will apply. If you receive it at a pharmacy, your cost share is based on your pharmacy benefits. All vaccines will be considered Tier Two.

Q: My pharmacy is open 24/7. Does that mean I can receive a vaccine at any time?

A: All pharmacists who work at the pharmacy may not be certified to give vaccines. To ensure a pharmacist is available who can give the vaccine, it is recommended you call ahead to find out when the pharmacist is available.

Q: How will the pharmacist know what to charge for my vaccine?

A: If you go to a network pharmacy, the pharmacist will be able to look up your pharmacy benefits in the computer system and let you know how much you will need to pay. If you go to a non-network pharmacy, you will have to pay for the entire cost of the vaccine, submit a paper claim, and wait for reimbursement.

Q: My pharmacy is offering flu shots for \$15. My Tier Two cost share is more than \$15. This doesn't seem like much of a benefit to me.

A: In some cases, it may be in your best financial interest to pay cash for your flu shot, if you choose to receive a flu shot at the pharmacy. Benefits vary depending on the pharmacy coverage of your plan.

Q: Do I need a prescription for a flu shot?

A: You may need a prescription. Check with the pharmacy first. If you do need a prescription, ask the pharmacist to contact your doctor to call a prescription into the pharmacy.

* Excludes employees enrolled in the State Police Officers Council (SPOC) Alliance Select plan

Q: I received a pneumococcal vaccine several years ago. Do I need to receive another one?

A: In most cases, only one pneumococcal vaccination is needed until you turn 65.¹ Your doctor may recommend a second dose after you turn 65, or at a younger age, if you have certain medical conditions that may increase your risk of developing pneumococcal disease.

Q: If most immunizations and vaccines require a prescription, why wouldn't I simply get the service while at my doctor's office?

A: You will most likely receive the immunization or vaccine at your doctor's visit. There are situations, however, where your doctor may no longer choose to carry that type of immunization or vaccine so it is necessary to find another place to have the vaccine administered. By Wellmark expanding access to pharmacies, it simply gives you another place of service to have the vaccine administered under your benefits.

Q: I don't see my vaccine or immunization listed on the searchable Wellmark Drug List on www.wellmark.com. Why is it not listed if it is covered under my pharmacy benefits?

A: Only vaccines and immunizations covered under your health benefits are eligible for coverage under your pharmacy benefits. Since immunization and vaccine coverage varies, it was decided to NOT include these services on the searchable Wellmark Drug List to help minimize confusion. In addition, it is your health benefits that determine eligibility for these services. Wellmark is simply allowing another place of service – pharmacies – for you to receive these services if covered under your health benefits. Also, not all covered drugs are listed on the Wellmark Drug List.

Q: Who do I contact if I have additional questions or need more information?

A: If you have questions or need additional information, contact Wellmark's customer service staff at:

Blue Access	1-800-553-7801
Blue Advantage	1-800-553-7801
Deductible 3 Plus	1-800-622-0043
Iowa Select PPO	1-800-622-0043
Program 3 Plus	1-800-622-0043

